Pesticides contents in food

2227. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pesticides content in the food of a normal citizsn. has increased and unchecked and soma of the pesticides banned abroad continue to be used for cultivation and preservation of food items;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made in this regard and what are the details of the results of the pesticides co-ntnts in the food items of a normal citizen of Delhi; and

(c) what steps have been taken to minimise the use of pesticides and to ban the pesticides as are banned in other developed countries?

THE MINTSTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The preliminary report of the Pilot Project, undertaken by the Directorate of Health Services under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has found that residues levels in the majority of samples of various food articles were within the tolerance limits prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955; only in respect of milk products, some samples contained pesticide residues beyond permissible levels.

Some of the pesticides which are banned abroad continue to be used in India for cultivation and preservation of food items.

(b) The Directorate of Health Services under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has undertaken a pilot Project to analyse pesticide residues level in various food articles in Delhi and surrounding areas. This study is under WHO Country Project of Directorate of Health Services and is done i*n* collaboration with Food Research and Standardisation Laboratory, Ghaziabad and Sri Venketeshwara College, New Delhi. Preliminary report indicates the presence of pesicides residues in various foods. Further, under the aegis of Indian Council of Medical Research New Dilhi, a multi-centric project on monitoring of food contaminants *viz,* heavy metals aflotoxin and pesticide residue in food is continuing.

(c) The Government has been advocating the adoption of Integrated Pest Management strategy and the need-based and jduicious use of pesticides. The Government has also:

(i) banned Dibromo-Chloropropane, Toxaphene and Penta Chloronitrobenzene; and

(ii) banned the use of DDT and Chlorobenzilate in agriculture.

Expenditure on urban development

2228. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the total amount spent by the Ministry for urban development in West Bengal, Delhi, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, since 1977 to till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): Urban Development is a State subject. Appropriate urban development plans are formulated and implemented by State Government & Union Territories in accordance with their needs and priorities out of their annua'! plan provisions. However, Ministry of Urban Development releases grants-in-aid under certain centrally sponsored schemes and the total amount released for West Bengal. Delhi, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu since 1977 are mentioned in the enclosed statement.